

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



A weekly update for residents, visitors, and workers in the District of Columbia

Friday, October 21, 2005

MPDC ENCOURAGES "TRICK-OR-TREATERS" OF ALL AGES TO ENJOY A SAFE HALLOWEEN THIS YEAR

The warnings probably sound familiar to experienced "trick-or-treaters" of all ages. But with Halloween just days away, it's a good idea for young people and adults to keep in mind some basic safety tips and precautions. In selecting costumes for the young ones, bright, reflective and flame-retardant materials are a must. So are comfortable, well fitting shoes. Masks can restrict vision, so youngsters are encouraged to get creative with face paints instead. To promote their safety while walking, trick-or-treaters are reminded to stay on the sidewalk and to cross only at the corner (never between cars). Motorists need to slow down and be on the lookout for children. Homeowners are encouraged to turn on exterior lights and clean up any debris near their property that could create a tripping hazard. And, of course, youngsters should follow three strict safety rules: never go into peoples' homes; never talk to or accept rides from strangers, and never eat any goodies before their parents have had a chance to inspect them back at home. Adults who will be celebrating Halloween this year are reminded that the MPDC and other law enforcement agencies in the region will be on the lookout for impaired drivers.

CHIEF UPDATES COUNCIL ON TRANSFER OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES TO MPDC

In testimony this past week before the DC Council, Chief Ramsey provided an update on the Reorganization Plan that would transfer the Protective Services Division, currently within the DC Office of Property Management, to the MPDC. Protective Services is responsible for providing security at all DC government facilities, through a combination of both PSD Special Police Officers and contract security personnel. Under the plan, PSD would be moved to the MPDC's Office of Security Services, which already oversees the Department's management of school security. "Our goal is nothing short of making Protective Services the most professional, most advanced and most effective government protection agency possible," Chief Ramsey said. He said this is particularly important in the "post Nine-Eleven environment," with government facilities — especially those in DC — remaining prime targets for terrorists. Calling the PSD a professional agency, the Chief said it would become even more effective with access to additional training, equipment, technology and other resources that the MPDC would be able to provide. He outlined higher standards for PSD personnel that would come about as a result of the transfer. Finally, the Chief pointed out that the federal government is following the same direction, having moved its Federal Protective Service from the General Services Administration to the Department of Homeland Security. "This move recognizes two critical realities: first, that government buildings and other infrastructure represent very real targets for terrorism; and second, that integrating protective services into a larger public safety operation enhances coordination and provides for a more comprehensive and seamless approach to protecting our cities and our infrastructure," Chief Ramsey said.

- ① A comprehensive list of Halloween safety tips and resources is available at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547669,mpdcNav_GID,1550,mpdcNav,|.asp
- ① Any "stranger-danger" threats to children — on Halloween or any other time of the year — should be reported immediately to the police by calling 9-1-1. Suspicious candy or other non-emergency situations should be reported through the 3-1-1 non-emergency number.
- ① All MPDC police districts, as well as many community groups, business associations and others, will be hosting Halloween parties. Parents should consider these as an alternative to door-to-door "trick-or-treating" for their children. For information on MPDC-sponsored Halloween events, contact your local police district.
- ① Halloween SoberRide. To help combat impaired driving over the long Halloween weekend, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program is once again sponsoring the Halloween SoberRide program. The initiative provides free cab rides home (up to \$50) to Halloween revelers who have had too much to drink. The program will be in operation from 8 pm to 4 am on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, October 29-31. To call for a ride, dial toll-free, 1 (800) 200-TAXI. Details at:
<http://www.soberride.com>.
- ① Read his full statement at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1247,q,558316,mpdcNav_GID,1543.asp

MAYOR CRITICIZES DC COUNCIL ACTION ON DRUNK DRIVING

Mayor Williams has issued a statement criticizing DC Council passage this past week of emergency legislation that would weaken the District's drunk driving laws. The mayor had encouraged the Council to engage in a measured, thoughtful review of DUI laws, but Councilmembers decided instead to rush through an emergency bill. The mayor is reviewing the legislation before deciding whether to sign or veto the bill. "Strong anti-impaired driving laws are an essential tool in keeping our streets safe," the Mayor said, noting that several people have been killed on DC roadways in recent years by drivers who had a Blood Alcohol Concentration below the legal limit for Driving While Intoxicated (.08). This past week, a Maryland man pled guilty to manslaughter in a November 2004 traffic crash that killed a Mt. Pleasant resident. The driver was reportedly traveling at 90 mph before running a red light and slamming into the victim's car at Irving Street and Park Place, NW. The driver's BAC was .065, below the DWI standard but at a level in which a driver is presumed to be impaired under current DC law. Under the emergency legislation, drivers with a BAC between .05 and .08 would be in a newly created "neutral zone" in which they would no longer be presumed impaired automatically. "The fact that people are dying on the road is reason enough for us to think long and hard about undoing years of federal and local public safety messages that stress: 'Don't Drink and Drive,'" Mayor Williams said. "I am open to a careful review of enforcement or adjudicative methods and would like to see the Council approach the process in a careful and deliberative way."

MPDC PARTICIPATING IN THIS YEAR'S HYPOTHERMIA WATCH PROGRAM

Temperatures may still be comfortable, but cold weather is just around the corner. So again this year, the MPDC will be participating in the District's Hypothermia Plan, which includes a multi-agency and community response to the problem. Hypothermia is a life-threatening condition that can be particularly dangerous to homeless people living on the streets when the temperature falls below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, or the wind chill factor creates the same effect. The Hypothermia Plan calls for every government agency, every community and all residents to get involved and protect those at risk. The hypothermia season lasts from November 1 to March 31. Residents, business owners and others are urged to call the Hypothermia Shelter Hotline at 1 (800) 535-7252 to report the location of people who may need help when the temperature is below 32 degrees. The DC Department of Human Services coordinates shelter and other services for the homeless during hypothermia season. DHS also manages the Hypothermia Watch Partner Campaign in conjunction with the MPDC, DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, DC Department of Mental Health, DC Department of Health, and the DC Emergency Management Agency. In addition to helping to publicize the shelter hotline, MPDC officers have received training in hypothermia, and are once again helping to identify potential hypothermia victims and direct them to shelters and other resources.

NEWS & NOTES

Gang Intervention Partnership Honored. The MPDC's Gang Intervention Partnership Unit has been selected as this year's recipient of the Community Agency "CORO" Award – Community, Outreach, Recognition, and Opportunity – for its outstanding service to the Latino community. For the last 10 years the DC Courts have celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by recognizing those outstanding individuals and organizations that provide invaluable services to the District's Latino community. The awards ceremony was held on October 21 at the Moultrie Courthouse.

Chief Ramsey on "Live at Five" on Wednesday. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues, and takes phone calls, from 5-6 pm on Wednesday, October 26, during his monthly interview with Latoya Foster on WOL-AM radio.

- ① Details on the fatal crash and guilty plea are at: http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Press_Releases/2005_Archives/Oct_2005/05382.html
- ① Council committees have scheduled additional hearings on DC's drunk driving laws for the week of October 24. For further information, visit: <http://www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us/calendar.html>

- ① For details about DC's program, click on: <http://dhs.dc.gov/dhs/cwp/view,a,3,q,492649,dhsNav,|30980|.asp>

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 10/21/05
◆ 2005: 158	
◆ 2004: 159	
◆ % Change: -0.6%	
◆ Closure Rate: 53.8% (85 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 10/15/05
◆ Total: 787	
◆ Drugs: 133	
◆ Weapons: 20	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 9	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 25	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 10/15/05
◆ Arrests: 51	
◆ Curfew Violations: 52	
◆ Truants: 78	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 10/19/05
◆ October: 120	
◆ 2005 Total: 1,910	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 10/21/05
◆ 2005: 37	
◆ 2004: 38	
◆ % Change: -2.6%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with Crimereports.com.

mpdc.dc.gov